infiltrating into Assam through local agents; and

(b) if so, what positive steps the Central Governemnt have so far taken for strengthening Assam border to prevent infiltration from Bangaldesh as per Assam Accord Clause No. 9 during the period 1985-1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No reports regarding infiltration of foreign nationals from across the border into Assam through local agents have been received. However, the Central Governemnt have taken the following steps to check infiltration into Assam from across the border:-

(1) In pursuance of clause 9 of the Assam Accord a scheme for construction of border road/fence along Indo-Bangladesh border has been taken up and the work is under progress. In response to the request from Government of Assam it has also now been decided to take up construction of barbed wire fence in 36 kms. along the north and south bank of Brahmaputra in Dhubri Sector.

(2) One additional batallion of BSF has been inducted during 1987-88 and another batallion is being provided shortly.

(3) The numbers of Border out-posts and of OP towers have been increased.

(4) Under the Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners Scheme 1280 posts of various categories have been sanctioned for the purpose of detection and expulsion of foreign nationals in Assam.

Proposal for Creating "No Man's Land" on Assam-Bangladesh Border

237. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Chief Minister of Assam urging the Central Government for creating a "No Man's Land" on the Assam-Bangladesh border; and

(b) if so, what positive steps Government have taken for the implementation of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since creation of 'No Man's Land' would mean removal of structures along the zero line of the International border as well as eviction of people living in those areas and their subsequent rehabilitation on alternate sites, the State Government have been requested to assess the magnitude of the human problem that is likely to arise.

Foreign exchange reserves

238. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest level of foreign currency assets of Rs. 6243.1 crores on December 23, 1988 is less than the trade deficit in 1987-88;

(b) if so, whether the latest level of reserves constituted two thirds of the deficit on merchandise accounts;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons therefor; and

(d) to what extent the latest reserve has been reduced in 1988 and what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and SDR's) as on December 23, 1988 constituted more than

two thirds of the deficit on merchandise accounts of 1987-88.

(c) and (d) The foreign exchange reserves declined from Rs. 7145 crores as on 1-1-1988 to Rs. 6313 crores as on 30-12-1988. The decline in reserves, as per available indications is due primarily to sharp increase in international prices of some of the major bulk commodities like steel, non-ferrous metals, petrochemicals and other imports; increase in import of petroleum products, fertilizers and steel; imports of wheat, rice and other items necessitated by the unprecedented drought of last year and lower net receipts of aid and higher repayments to the IMF as compared to last year.

A Special Action Plan drawn by Government for Balance of Payments turnaround aims at measures to generate additional exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange earnings through NRI Deposits/Bonds additional direct/indirect investments and increased tourism receipts.

Ex-gratia payments to November, 1984 riot victims

239. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'November, 84 Riot Victims Association, Janakpuri, New Delhi' has represented to Government that ex-gratia payments to Nov.' 84 riot victims is not being paid in some cases as per decision of the Home Ministry i.e. 50 per cent of the estimated losses or Rs. 50,000/- maximum for each business establishment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ex-gratia amount recommended by the Claims Settlement Officers is being curtailed/reduced arbitrarily by the next officers without assigning any reasons in D.C. Office;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action has been taken on the representations of the above named Association in order to remove the hardships of riot victims; and

(d) how much time is likely to be taken by Government to decide all these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) About one month.

आयात और निर्यात के अन्तर में वृद्धि

240. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्री राम नरेश यादव :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के पहले सात महीनों की अवधि के दौरान पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि की तुलना में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार में आयात और निर्यात के बीच के अन्तर में वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले वर्ष और इस वर्ष के पहले सात महीनों की अवधि में देश के आयात और निर्यात की मात्रा क्रमशः कितनी-कितनी थी;

(ग) अन्तर में वृद्धि का कारण निर्यात में कमी होना है या अधिक आयात होना है; और

(घ) क्या आयात में वृद्धि हुई है; और यदि हां, तो किन-किन वस्तुओं का, उनकी मात्रा सहित, आयात किया गया?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० आर० दासमुंशी) : (क) अनन्तिम आंकड़ों के अनुसार चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के पहले सात महीनों, अर्थात् अप्रैल-अक्तूबर, 1988 के दौरान भारत का व्यापार घाटा 4936.45 करोड़ रु० का था, जबकि अप्रैल-अक्तूबर, 1987 के दौरान यह 3483.98 करोड़ रू० था।

(ख) और (ग) अनन्तिम आंकड़ों के अनुसार अप्रैल-अक्तूबर, 1988 के दौरान भारत के निर्यात 10624.62 करोड़ रु० के रहे, जबकि अप्रैल-अक्तूबर, 1987 के दौरान ये 8707.74 करोड़ रु० के थे, इस प्रकार इनमें 22.0% की वृद्धि हुई, इसी समय अप्रैल-अक्तूबर, 1988 के दौरान भारत के आयात